

BOWL WRAP UP GUIDE

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Portrait of Blake Slaughter by Parker Robb | The Collegian

By the numbers: Bowl Edition



SPENCER LOW
THE COLLECIAN

3 Receiving touchdowns by Kansas State wide receiver Tyler Lockett. The junior's triple trip to pay dirt tied a K-State bowl record, and if that does not speak enough about his abilities, remember that all three came in the first half, with the Michigan defense helpless against his speed and route running. This was the third time in the season that the star receiver caught three touchdowns.

17 The amount of bowl appearances now for K-State. All but two appearances have been under Snyder, and there is little left to say about his mastery as head coach in Manhattan. He is K-State football.

21 Completions by junior quarterback Jake Waters, a new K-State bowl record. Waters' day was somewhat lost in Lockett's domination of the Wolverine defense, but his numbers were solid, and provided plenty to look forward to next season with number 15 under center.

38.8 Fullback Glenn Gronkowski's average yards per catch for the season. Although he caught only 5 passes, Gronkowski accrued 194 yards, a solid contribution for any position, much less a fullback. Used mainly as a lead blocker, the freshman was able to catch opposing defenses off-guard and eat up yards with the ball in his hands this season.

1084 Rushing yards for senior running back John Hubert for the 2013-2014 season. This was the first season in which Hubert eclipsed the 1,000 yard mark, rushing for 80 yards in the bowl game to put him into the quadruple digits. In his first two seasons as K-State's starting running back, a hallowed position in Snyder's offense, Hubert scampered for over 900 yards, but could not quite make it over 1,000, finally doing it in his third and final go as a Wildcat. He closed the book on his career at second in school history with 2,993 yards.

4019 Days since K-State's last bowl win. The Wildcats had not won a postseason game since the 2002 Holiday Bowl against Arizona State. Now that they have broken the spell, the team is even hungrier to make sure that this number does not grow to anywhere near that size again.

Bowl win, young talent can springboard new era



Kansas State junior quarterback **Jake Waters** smiles as he's congratulated after the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl game on Dec. 28.

EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLECIAN



JOHN ZETMEIR
THE COLLECIAN

It had been 11 long years since anyone in a K-State jersey had tasted the sweet victory that comes with winning a bowl game. On Dec. 28 in Tempe, Ariz., the Kansas State Wildcats ended that streak with a big 31-14 win over the Michigan Wolverines.

The win over Michigan might be the end to one season, but it could easily be considered the start of something far greater. Head coach Bill Snyder often mentions how beneficial bowl games are from the aspect of additional practice time. Players are able to get extra reps and practices, and coaches are able to evaluate more guys during those practices.

Many players stepped up for the Wildcats during the bowl game, many of which still have time left at K-State. Juniors Tyler Lockett and Jake Waters were among the players who highlighted the day for K-State.

Waters finished the game having completed

21 of his 27 pass attempts for 271 yards and three touchdowns. The junior college transfer also got out of the pocket when he needed to, scrambling for 42 yards, including a 21-yard run.

The former junior college player of the year had an up and down season. There were moments when Waters struggled, but there were also moments when the quarterback showed a lot of promise. Co-offensive coordinator Dana Dimel mentioned that Waters showed good signs as early as the game against Texas in mid-September.

"He was making some passes in that ball game that [the coaches] were like, 'We haven't had a quarterback that could spin the ball like that for a long time,'" Dimel said. "He made some mistakes, but he made some plays in that game alone that got us really excited about what he's going to progress to be."

Lockett made Waters' job that much easier on Saturday. The junior receiver tied the K-State bowl record with three touchdown receptions on the day. The duo were effective all year, but what's next for the two? Both are expected to be right back in Manhattan next season.

Other key members of the 2013 who could be back for the Wildcats next season are offensive linemen BJ Finney, junior, and Cody Whitehair, sophomore, along with wide receivers Curry Sexton, junior, and Kyle Klein, sophomore. On the defensive side, the Wildcats will be returning sophomore safety Dante Barnett who was named the defensive player of the Buffalo Wild Wings

Bowl. Other key returners for the defense include All-American defensive end Ryan Mueller, junior, as well as sophomore Travis Britz. K-State will also return a strong linebacking core highlighted by junior Jonathan Truman.

There is excitement in the Manhattan air when it comes to K-State football. In the past three seasons, the Wildcats have won 29 games, a Big 12 title and a bowl game of the all-time winningest FBS football program. With Snyder at the helm, there is no saying what this team's limits are. The Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl might be just one game, but in 10 years it is possible that we could look back and see that it was a spring board to a new era in K-State football.

"I think this really sets the foundation for next year, because you have a lot of guys who are happy right now in the locker room," Lockett said. "We all know how it feels to lose in a bowl game and not know what to do for seven months because you don't get another chance until you play your first game in late August. So, I mean, being able to win this bowl game, it brings a spark to us even going into next year."

John Zetmeir is a junior in journalism. Please send all comments to sports@kstatecollegian.com.

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K-State family comes from far, wide to cheer on Wildcats



PARKER ROBB | EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

TOP LEFT: Three K-State fans enjoy the pleasant Arizona winter weather following the K-State pep rally at Rawhide Western Town in Chandler, Ariz. Dec. 27.

ABOVE: **Ryan Mueller** slaps hands with fans after the pep rally on Dec. 27 in Chandler, Ariz.

TOP RIGHT: **Willie the Wildcat** traveled to Tempe, Ariz. to make appearances around town and at the pep rally, as well as to entertain fans from the sidelines during the game.

MIDDLE RIGHT: K-State President **Kirk Schulz** and son **Andrew Schulz** show off their Buffalo Wild Wings shades at the K-State pep rally at Rawhide Western Town in Chandler, Ariz. on Dec. 27.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A parachute jumper glides into the Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz. before the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl on Dec. 28.

BOTTOM LEFT: **Danny Callahan** traveled the furthest to see the Wildcats take on the Wolverines at about 3,669 miles, coming from Anchorage, Ala., to see the game.

BELOW: The Pride of Wildcat Land spells out “Wildcat” before the game in front of the 53,284 fans that filled Sun Devil Stadium.



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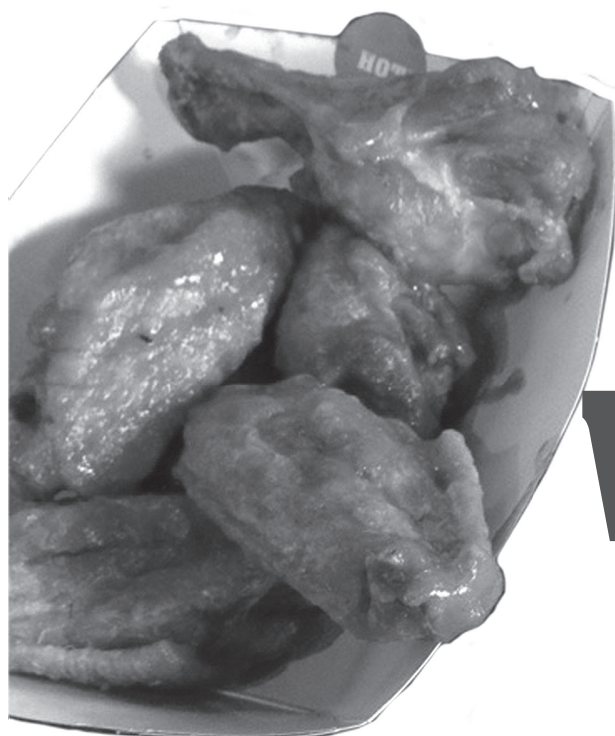
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Wingin' It with the Wildcats

VIDEO BY KATIE JOHNSTON
THE COLLEGIAN



K-State senior linebacker **Tre Walker** and senior running back **John Hubert** laugh in embarrassment after singing their own rendition of "My Girl" in response to a question on secret talents among the Wildcat roster during K-State's Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl media day on Dec. 26.

Inspired by the Buffalo Wild Wing's Bowl, and some awesome glasses, K-State football players answered questions about who they think would win in a wing-eating competition, and who on the team has hidden talents during the media day in Arizona on Dec. 26.

Who is the best eater on the team?

Tramaine Thompson: The best eater on the team,

when it comes to wings, it would probably be the big guy over there, Cornelius Lucas. He's a big, 300 plus big guy.

Tavon Rooks: Wing eater? I think Cornelius Lucas, number 78.

Cornelius Lucas: I'd probably have to say (me). I've been to Buffalo Wild Wings a lot since I've been in college.

How many wings could you down in five

minutes?

Cornelius Lucas: In five minutes, I would say ... are these hot or regular? I depends on how hungry I am.

Could a Michigan Wolverine beat Cornelius Lucas in a wing-eating competition?

Tavon Rooks: I don't think so. If it happened on Saturday, and that was the game, then Cornelius would

have won. We would have won the trophy.

Pound for pound, who's the best eater on the team?

Curry Sexton: It might be Zach Nemechek to be honest with you.

Ty Zimmerman: Zach Nemechek ... he's our eater.

Head coach Bill Snyder: They all have pretty good appetites. I couldn't tell you who'd eat the most.

For the front offensive line, how many wings would it take at Buffalo Wild Wings to make all five guys walk out the door full?

Tre Walker: I think they could knock down like four or five hundred wings.

Blake Slaughter: Probably about a thousand. Those boys can put down some food.

Tavon Rooks: I would say about 5,000.

Bone-in or bone-out?

Blake Slaughter: Bone in. Yea, anybody that tells you different is lying.

John Hubert: I love dipping my wings in ranch. I love boneless wings.

"I think I can sing, but I can't sing, people are always telling me. Every time they are like, 'Tavon, shut up. You think you can sing.'"

TAVON ROOKS
SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER

Hidden talents on the team: what is something we've got to know?

Curry Sexton: Hidden talents? Zach Trujillo, he plays the harmonica and the guitar and multiple other things ...

Tyler Locket does poetry. You guys have probably heard that. He's really good at writing poetry.

Tavon Rooks: I think I can sing, but I can't sing, people are always telling me. Every time they are like, "Tavon, shut up. You think you can sing."

Ryan Mueller: Curry Sexton has a great country singing voice.

Glenn Gronkowski: Tre Walker can sing. That's for sure.



Check out the videos on the ECollegian for more player answers, and demonstrations of those hidden talents.

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Michigan players deliberate on teammates' ferocious appetites for wings

By SPENCER LOW
THE COLLEGIAN

As the bowl was sponsored and named for Buffalo Wild Wings, it seemed only appropriate to dig deep for an investigative report on which Michigan Wolverines could down the most wings.

Truth be told, every player on the team could no doubt pack away more than most people; but after talking to as many players as we could, these four stood above the rest.

Right Guard Kyle Kalis

At 6 feet 5 inches and 297 pounds, this redshirt freshman was far and away the most impressive specimen we saw when it came to making wings disappear.

"If I have to put my money down, I'm going with Kyle," fellow freshman lineman Erik Magnuson said. "He is what you would call a hog. If it's bone-in wings, he might just eat the whole thing."

Most people might be offended if they were called a hog. But Kalis doesn't appear to be most people.

"I think as an offensive lineman, that's the highest complement you can get," he said.

The comparisons did not stop there.

"I feel like Kyle would do pretty well, just look at him," sophomore offensive lineman Graham Glasgow said. "He looks like an armadillo. He's in his natural habitat, rolling around the streets ... the 'dillo would go ham."

Kalis did not just rely on the accolades of others to paint a picture of his dining prowess, though.

"I am very confident in my wing-eating ability," Michigan's starting right

guard said of his abilities. "I ate 50 like nothing the other day."

Similarly, he was just as decisive when it came to his preferred style of wing.

"Bone-in, definitely bone-in," he said of his preference in wings. "If you eat bone-out you're not a man."

Who on the Wolverine's roster might give this behemoth a run for his money?

"I'd probably say Erik [Magnuson]," Kalis said. "Erik can put them down too. When me and Erik go to Chipotle, we get two burritos apiece. It gets crazy."

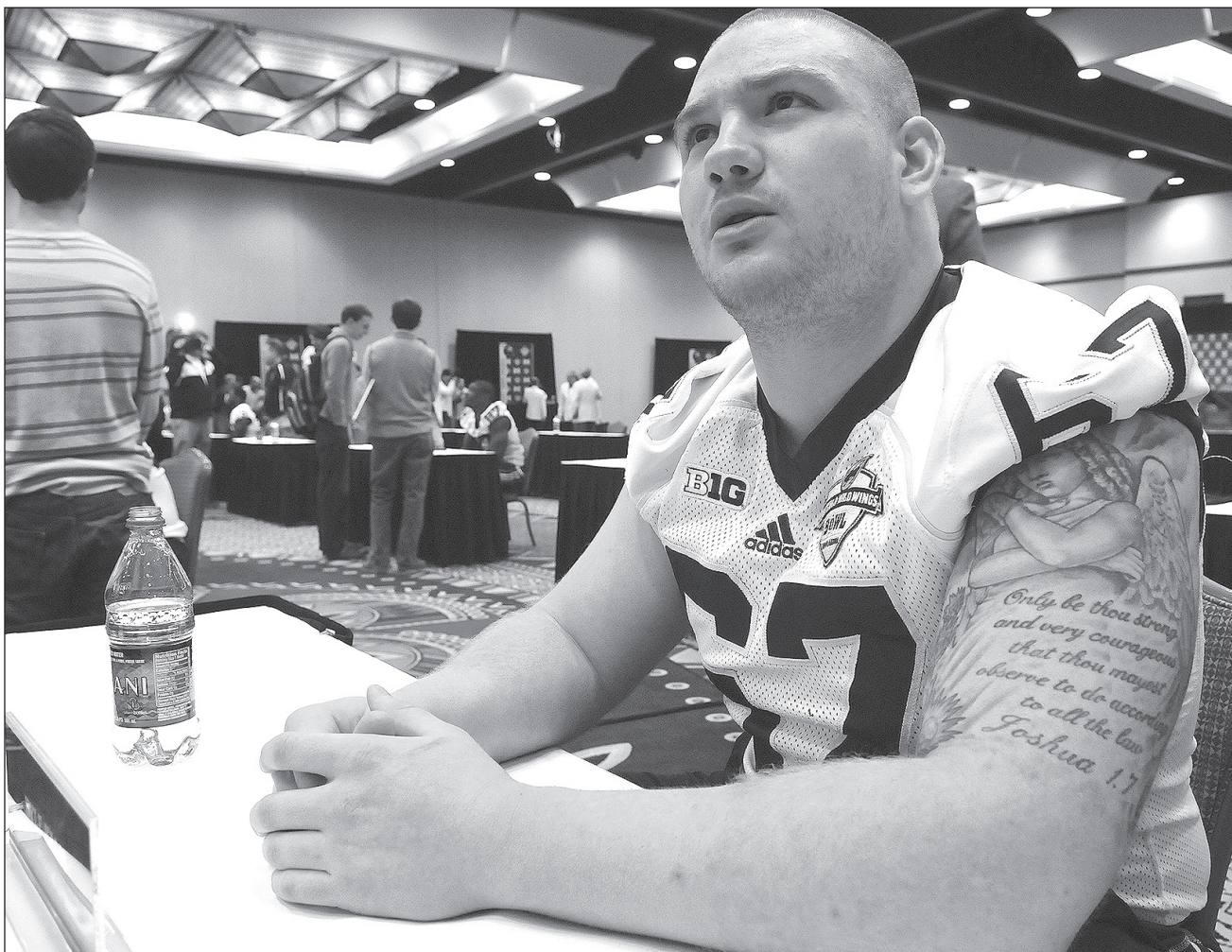
Truth be told, every player on the team could no doubt pack away more than most people; but after talking to as many players as we could, these four stood above the rest.

Right Tackle Erik Magnuson

At 6 feet 6 inches and 285 pounds, Magnuson strikes fear in the eyes of most foods put before him, and wings are no exception. However, Magnuson has one major Achilles heel.

"I think I'd be more competitive if I didn't have my beard," the redshirt freshman said. "I'm really self-conscious of getting sauce all over my face and having people look at me. When you have a beard, it's not just on your face, it's in your beard. There's food everywhere. It's just not a good deal."

Magnuson, who has been growing his beard since



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

When it comes to eating wings, Michigan players agree that freshman right guard **Kyle Kalis** is the man to beat.

July, said he was fine with the concept of saving food that gets stuck in his beard for later, but he was not OK with the look of it.

Center Graham Glasgow

For senior left tackle Taylor Lewan, it is Glasgow who would have the advantage in an eat-off.

"If we're going boneless, none other than Graham Glasgow," Lewan said. "The kid has got the palette of a 12-year-old; he doesn't even like mustard. If he eats burgers, it has to be super

cooked, no pink in the middle. But he can eat boneless wings like it's his job. He's a thick boy."

Glasgow agreed. "I like boneless wings usually, I'm not a big wing guy," the redshirt sophomore said.

Like Lewan, Glasgow was coy on his own eating ability, but the picky eater certainly looked like he could pack a few dozen down.

Tight End Jake Butt

While linemen obviously dominated the conversation,

there was one outsider that deserves consideration: freshman tight end Jake Butt.

"I eat B-Dubs like three, four times a week," the freshman said of his affinity for the bowl sponsor. "My dad orders me 24 boneless sweet barbecue, mozzarella sticks and buffalo chips. I put 'em down."

While Butt is big at 6 feet 6 inches and 237 pounds, he has nowhere near the girth of the Michigan offensive linemen such as Kalis and Magnuson. Some linemen even threw some praise in Butt's direction.

"He's got a wide frame,

he could put it down if he needs to," Lewan said.

Despite being smaller than some other names on this list, Butt may be pound-for-pound the best wing eater on the team. At the very least, he loves Buffalo Wild Wings the most. He lives a mere five minutes away from a Buffalo Wild Wings in Ann Arbor, Mich., a spot in this bowl was nothing short of perfect.

"Once we got word that we were going to the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, it was the best news I could hear," he said. "It was like Christmas morning."

Wildcats triumph over Wolverines 31-14, end 11-year-long bowl drought

By JOHN ZETMEIR
THE COLLEGIAN

The Kansas State Wildcats completed the best single season turnaround in program history by defeating the Michigan Wolverines 31-14 in the 2013 Buffalo Wild Wings bowl on Dec. 28. The Wildcats came out of the gate on fire, scoring on their

first three drives of the game. Behind the arm of junior quarterback Jake Waters, K-State found success against Michigan's defense through the air. Waters completed 21 of his 27 pass attempts, which included three touchdowns.

On the defensive side, the Wildcats arguably had their most impressive defensive performance of the season. It

wasn't until the Wolverines found the end zone with 75 seconds left in the game to score their only touchdown of the game.

Turning point

K-State ultimately dominated Michigan from the opening kickoff. However, it wasn't until Waters connected with freshman full back Glenn Gronkowski

for a 46-yard catch, which included a face mask penalty, that the Wildcats were put on the door step. The Wildcats punched it into the end zone to give them a 21-6 lead, ultimately crushing the Wolverines hopes of keeping it a close game.

X-Factor

This wasn't the first time this season fans saw junior

wide receiver Tyler Lockett erupt for a big game. However, in the final game of the season, Lockett went out with just as big a bang. The junior from Tulsa, Okla. caught 10 passes for 116 yards and three touchdown receptions. His three touchdown receptions tied the school record for touchdown catches in a bowl game.

Highlight of the night

With 2:25 left on the clock, junior defensive end Ryan Mueller decided that it was time for head coach Bill Snyder to embrace the infamous Gatorade bath. Snyder was not so accepting of his decision. The 74-year-old coach tried his best to avoid Mueller, but the All-American defensive end was simply too quick for Snyder.

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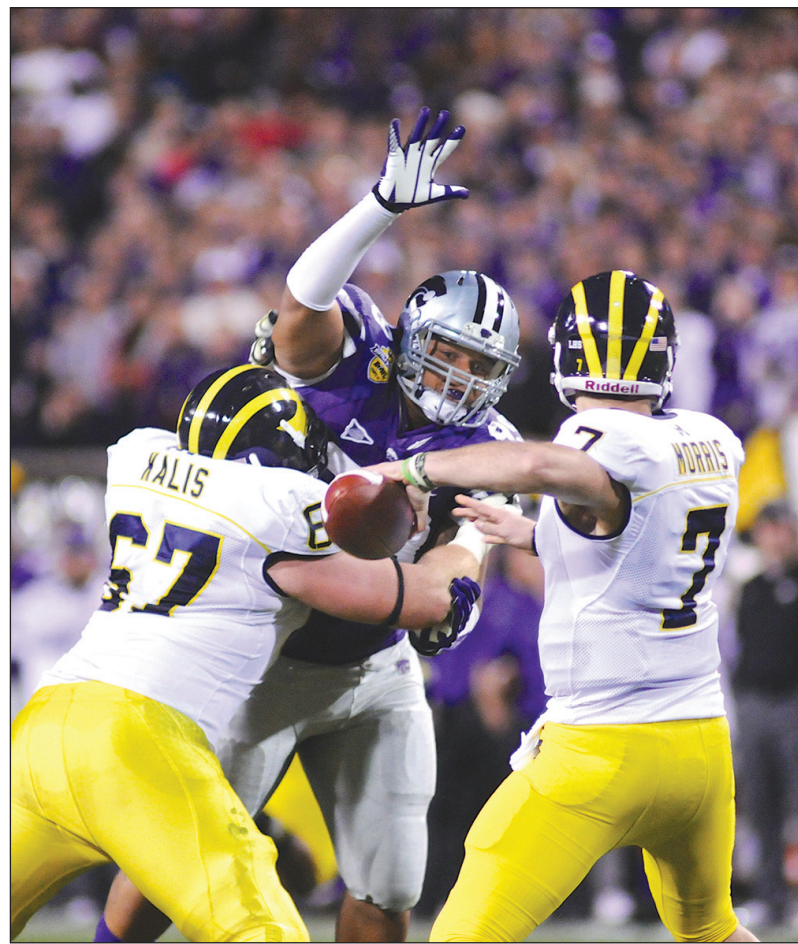
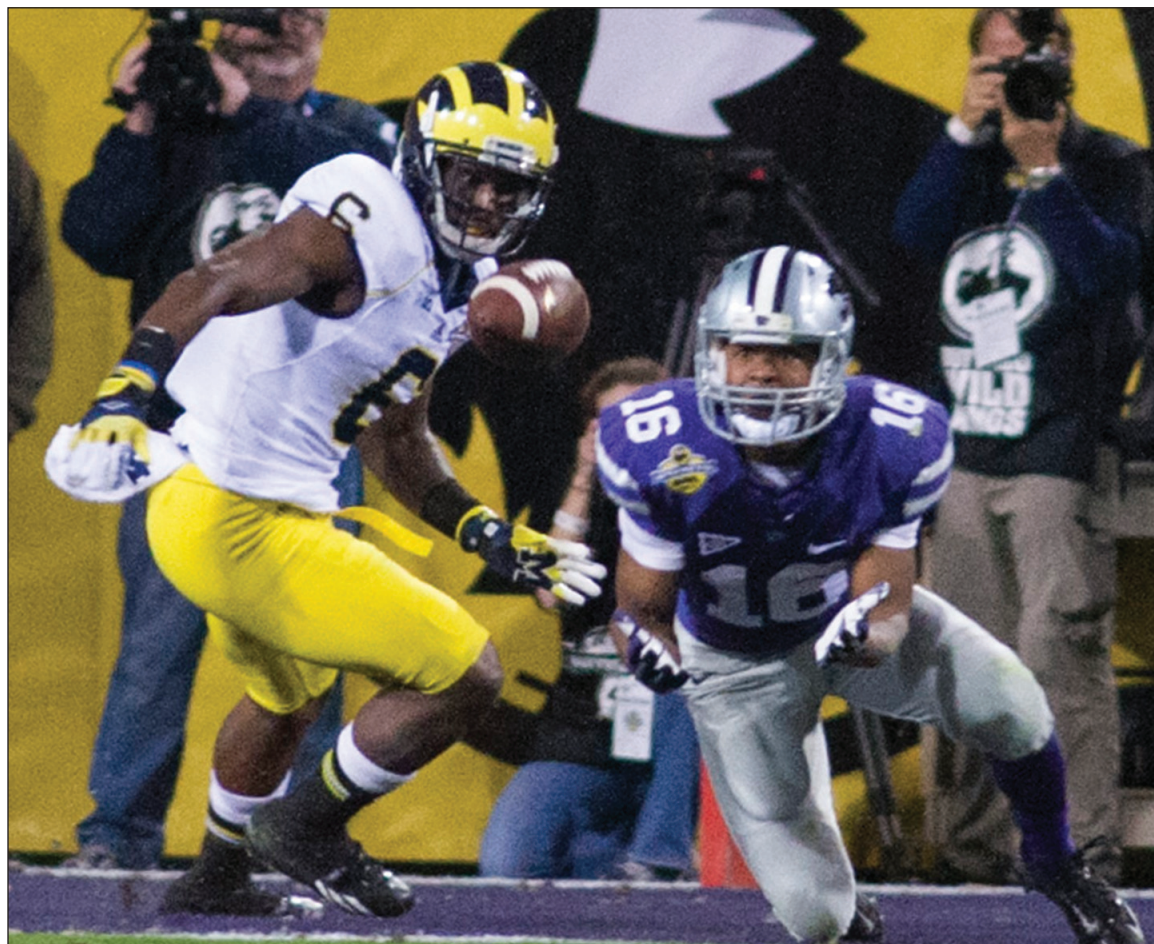
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K-State takes Tempe by storm in Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl



EMILY DeSHAZER | PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

TOP LEFT: K-State junior wide receiver **Tyler Lockett** catches a touchdown during the first half of the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl on Dec. 28 at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz.

ABOVE: K-State players raise their helmets in celebration after defeating Michigan 31-14 in the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl, bringing K-State its first bowl victory since 2002.

TOP RIGHT: K-State junior defensive tackle **Valentino Coleman** pressures Michigan freshman quarterback **Shane Morris** in the waning minutes of the second quarter of the Buffalo Wild Wings Bowl Dec. 28 in Tempe, Ari.

BOTTOM RIGHT: K-State sophomore defensive back **Dante Barnett** snags a interception in front of Michigan sophomore tight end **Devin Funchess**. Barnett was awarded defensive player of the game.

BELOW: K-State junior defensive back **Jonathan Truman** attempts to tackle Michigan wide receiver **Dennis Norfleet** during Norfleet's 19-yard kickoff return following K-State junior wide receiver **Tyler Lockett's** third touchdown catch of the night late in the second quarter on Dec. 28.



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